The Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and PFA Rule, 1955, prescribes the standards for various foods besides regulating use of food additives, limits food contaminants, and pesticides etc. The role of the central Government is to facilitate the State Governments in implementing the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and PFA Rule, 1955. The actual licensing of manufacturing units and enforcement of the standards under the law is the function of the State Governments. For safety to human Health, maximum residue limits (MRLs) have been prescribed for different pesticides for various foods by Ministry of Health under Rule 65 of the PFA Rules, 1955. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has prescribed MRLs for 71 pesticides and maximum residues limits for another 50 pesticides have been notified for soliciting public comments.

Under the Capacity Building Project launched by the Central Government in October, 2003, support is being provided to the State Governments for strengthening their food laboratories and also for setting up of new food laboratories wherever required. The Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, is also being reviewed in order to ensure consumer safety.

Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996

*293. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring amendment in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 to make it more effective;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have examined the recommendation made by the Law Commission in this regard; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER TO LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) yes, Sir. The Government has examined the recommendations made by the Law Commission to amend the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. Steps are being taken to introduce a Bill to amend the Act in Parliment. In order to speed up all arbitration proceedings under the

Arbitration and Conciliation Act, a new section 43A is proposed to be inserted therein under which arbitrations pending for more than 3 years have to be completed within six months from the commencement of the amending Act and other pending arbitrations within one year. The Bill would *inter alia* resolve the problem of conflicting judgments and speed up disposal of future arbitration cases as well as the arbitration proceedings, applications and appeals which are at present pending in Courts under the existing Act and the repealed Arbitration Act, 1940.

Reservation for physically handicapped in services

†*294. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any reservation has been given to physically handicapped unemployed persons in Government service;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that due to non-implementation of the Handicapped Person (Equal Opportunity, protection of Right and Full Participation) Act, 1995, its objective is not being achieved; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to ensure justice to physically handicapped unemployed persons?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a provision for three percent reservation for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the identified posts as prescribed under Section 33 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995. The percentage of representation of PWDs in such posts in the Ministries/Departments of Government of India and its Public Sector undertakings (PSUs) is as under:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.